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**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 6827**

**BILL NUMBER:** HB 1265

**NOTE PREPARED:** Dec 26, 2008

**BILL AMENDED:**

**SUBJECT:** Child Abuse or Neglect Records.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Rep. Avery

**FIRST SPONSOR:**

**BILL STATUS:** As Introduced

**FUNDS AFFECTED:** X GENERAL  
DEDICATED  
FEDERAL

**IMPACT:** State & Local

**Summary of Legislation:** This bill specifies the data and information that must be disclosed in records of cases of a child fatality or near fatality that may have been a result of abuse, abandonment, or neglect.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2009.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:** This bill will increase the workload of the Division of Family and Resources, the Department of Child Services (DCS), and state personnel that serve on either the local or state child fatality review team (including the State Department of Health, DCS, and the Department of Education). Their workload will increase in order to maintain the information required in the bill for child fatalities or near fatalities. Increases will depend on the number of children that die and had contact with any of the agencies mentioned in the legislation.

The bill may also require the DCS and the Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA) to provide necessary information for reporting purposes. Information required to be provided involves (1) contact made, (2) services rendered or referred, (3) additional actions taken, and (4) status decisions made by DCS or FSSA with regards to the child or the child's family before or near the child's fatality. This will increase the workload of DCS and FSSA to provide information as necessary for reporting purposes. Increases in workload can be accomplished within the respective department's current resource levels and duties.

**Background Information:** The Kaiser Family Foundation reports that during CY 2005, Indiana had a child death rate of 25 per 100,000 children, or 0.025%. "Child", according to the website is defined as a person between the ages of 1 and 14. Between 2006 and 2007, 27% of Indiana's population consisted of individuals

under the age of 18, with 20% of this population considered “in poverty”. The Kaiser Family Foundation reports that the state population of Indiana between 2006 and 2007 was 6,294,220. During this time, Indiana had approximately 1,699,439 children, of whom 339,888 would have been considered in poverty and would have a higher chance of contact with FSSA or DCS. Assuming the child death rate of 0.025%, 85 of these children could die and might require information to be collected under the bill, depending on if they had contact with DCS or FSSA.

DCS reports that during FY 2007, 198 child fatality reports were received. Of these 198 reports, 36 of the reported deaths were substantiated as a result of child abuse or neglect, 9 of which occurred in homes in which DCS had previously had contact with the child or parent.

**Explanation of State Revenues:**

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:** This bill will increase the workload of local personnel that serve on either the local or state child fatality review team. Their workload will increase in order to maintain the information required in the bill for child fatalities or near fatalities. Increases will depend on the number of children that die and had contact with any of the agencies mentioned in the legislation.

**Explanation of Local Revenues:**

**State Agencies Affected:** DCS, FSSA, State Department of Health, Department of Education.

**Local Agencies Affected:** County officials that serve on local and statewide child fatality review teams.

**Information Sources:** Kaiser Family Foundation State Health Facts; Ann Houseworth, DCS.

**Fiscal Analyst:** Bill Brumbach, 232-9559.